

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
January 27 and 28, 2009
Department of Agriculture Conference Room
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Present: Gene Hardy, President
Joe Thomas, Vice President (via phone)
Jim Mickelson
Patrick Zimmerer
Jack Corson
Jim Bennage
John Hansen
Dave Graham
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters
Juan Reyes (via phone)
John Etchepare, Director

Absent: Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office
Dr. Frank Galey, UW College of Agriculture Dean

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough
Division Managers: Karen Everett, Dean Finkenbinder, Hank Uhden, Leanne Stevenson, Mike Leath, James Goodrich, and Julie Cook, Principal Accountant.

Guests: See Sign-in sheet

The meeting was called to order by President Hardy at 10:25 a.m.

John Etchepare announced he would be retiring as the Director of the department, by the end of April or the middle of May this year. He said he had made a promise to his wife that when he reached a certain age he would leave government service to spend more time enjoying life. The members expressed their congratulation to him and their sadness to see him leave.

Karen prefaces the reports the managers had been asked to give, by giving the board some background and overview of the department's strategic plan.

Each of the managers explained what their division is responsible for by statute and by the needs of the people of the state. They explained what their "to-do" list was and the need to prioritize them and divide them into three performance measures; customer service; education; and program management, coordination, and oversight. This list is what ties back into the strategic plan, making each division and the department accountable to the people of the state. The managers can also see if there is a need to shift responsibilities or personnel to another area of

need. They also talked about any legislation that was going to directly affect their division or the agriculture community.

Animal Care Oversight Proposal and Its Relationship to Tail Docking

After James Goodrich gave his division presentation, he handed out WS 11-30-114 Tampering with or drugging of livestock prohibited, the International Association of Fairs and Expositions Code of show Ring Ethics, and a new Animal Care Statement and a new Tail Dock Rule. Discussion followed from both sides of changing the rule from the current 3-full vertebrae. **Jim Bennage made a motion to accept the Animal Care Statement and the new Tail Dock Rule as presented, with it to be reviewed at the next face-to-face meeting following the 2009 fair. This would make the adoption of both only good for one year. The motion was seconded by Dave Graham. After discussion, Jim Bennage amended the motion to remove the review at the next face-to-face meeting following the 2009 fair. A roll call vote was taken: Jack Corson – yes; Dalin Winters – yes; Dave Graham – yes; John Hansen – yes; Jim Bennage; yes; Jim Mickelson – no; Bridget Kukowski – yes; Juan Reyes – no; Patrick Zimmerer – yes; Joe Thomas – no. Motion carried with the President not needing to vote.**

Presentations to Out-going Members

John Etchepare presenting the four outgoing members with specially designed belt buckles thanking them for their service to the state and the department. Those receiving buckles were Jack Corson, who represents District 2; Jim Mickelson, who represents District 3; Dave Graham, who represents District 6; and Gene Hardy, who represents District 7. Each of them expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to have been a part of such a great board for the last four years.

Jason Fearneyhough talked to the members about the one constant at the department, and that is change. We have changes in personnel and changes in the way we operate. When you are trying to improve, change is inevitable. He commended the members are making some very significant changes for the betterment of agriculture.

Minutes

Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 3, November 9, December 3, December 17, and January 3 meeting with changes noted. The motion was seconded by Patrick Zimmerer. Motion carried.

Tiered Declared Weeds and Pests

Slade Franklin handed the members a tiered list from Colorado. He said there has been talk of Wyoming moving to a tiered declared list of weeds and pests. He was originally in favor of such a list, but now feels those weeds and pests on the A list for eradication may get all of the attention, leaving those on the B and C list, with nothing being done.

In-Stream Flow/Water Rights

Mike Stone, from the Game and Fish responded to the boards' question of why the Game and Fish is not converting their water rights to in-stream flow. He indicated by state law, if they convert those rights, and need them later, they cannot get them back. They would revert to the

state. He would like to see more flexibility in the current law to allow for some changes like that to allow Game and Fish to be better able to ensure water for the fish in the state. Joe Thomas would like to have the State Engineer attend the next meeting to discuss water rights further. Juan would like to continue discussions with the Game and Fish on in-stream flow.

The board decided to have another face-to-face meeting in February and invite the State Engineer and Game and Fish to allow for further discussion on the issue. Juan suggested including Kara Brighton. John Etchepare will be coordinating this and get back to the members with a date.

Wyoming Ag in the Classroom (WAIC)

Brook Gerke who is the WAIC Education Coordinator joined the board by phone to talk a little about what she is doing, including inviting them to a portion of the Rendezvous which is scheduled for June 29 through July 2 in Wheatland. She asked the members for input as to what she can do to benefit the Board of Agriculture. Juan said it would help if she could help educate students on what the industry is all about and how it benefits them in their daily lives. He suggested a program on hormones and antibiotics in animals and feed. Jim Mickelson said that fewer young folks understand agriculture and have several misconceptions. He would like them to see the business side and career opportunities, including the science involved in agriculture. Brook thanked them for their input. She noted the bookmarks are due by February 1 and the ceremony and dinner at the Terry Bison Ranch would be on May 8.

Conservation District Appointment

Jim Mickelson made a motion to appoint George Renkert to fill the unexpired term vacated by Ray Windsor to the Powder River Conservation District. The motion was seconded by Dalin Winters. Motion carried.

Issues

John Etchepare brought the members up-to-date on the wild horses. BLM is not able to do their gathering of wild horses in Wyoming this year. Because that is in violation of the consent decree, the Attorney General has notified BLM of a possible suit. John Etchepare explained the funding was moved from Wyoming to Colorado leaving the Wyoming BLM with no money to gather the extra horses. BLM is hoping to have one round-up of wild horses in July and the other in October. John also said that if the funding is returned to Wyoming, he would like to see a guarantee it will be there for future gathering and not leave the state again.

John also said there is talk of forty head of buffalo being shipped to the Wind River Reservations. APHIS will probably test for brucellosis up to five years, but there are several questions remaining about the care, testing and discussion of their status if they leave the reservation. The state veterinarian is meeting with Game and Fish to discuss monitoring, etc.

John said he has been trying to visit with John Hay regarding the article done by National Geographic which is not a good depiction of Wyoming. John said from what he has heard, it makes Wyoming look ridiculous, but will be finding out more.

Public Comment

Cindy Garretson-Weibel handed out the Wyoming Business Council's (WBC) Strategic Plan as approved by their board. The action plans are being reviewed next week, which do include some of the comments made by various individuals and organizations from the WBC public meetings they hosted earlier.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Hardy, President

Date